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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/046,677	03/24/1998	KIMIKAZU FURUKAWA	614.1889	2428

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

AGDEPPA, HECTOR A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2003

20

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

8

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/046,677

Applicant(s)

FURUKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Hector A. Agdeppa

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-13 and 15-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-13,15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 3/31/03. Claims 1 – 6, 8 – 13, 15 - 20 are now pending in the present application. **This action is made final.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1 – 6, 8 – 13, and 15 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manning et al. in view of Rosen et al. and further in view of Bulfer.

Regarding claims 1, 3 – 6, 8 - 10, 12, 13, and 15 – 20, Manning et al. teaches a system and associated method of a parallel connected dialing signal transmission inhibiting device for data transfer over a telephone link, wherein a device may be connected to a telephone for the purpose of inhibiting DTMF signals going through or suppressing those signals to a central office when those DTMF signals are indicative of controls or simply any signal that should not be passed on to the central office for processing. Manning et al. teaches that this could include the ability to control various household devices via a standard telephone unit or for programming of the actual phone as for example, speed dial, or even for the purpose of invoking special telephony features on that phone as for example, the above-mentioned speed dial. Manning et al. accomplishes this by teaching a device having therein a tone/signal generator 300 for generating tones to be sent to a central office if so needed, a DTMF/tone detector 210 for detecting when DTMF signals come either from the telephone network and represent

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an actual call or in the event when Manning et al.'s invention is used for voice messaging, controlling signals or whether they are control signals coming from the telephone unit, a microprocessor 400 and various electrical components for switching between having the telephone unit connected to a telephone network or not. (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 5B, Col. 1, line 53 – Col. 3, line 35, Col. 4, lines 14 – 50, Col. 7, line 10 – Col. 12, line 12)

What is not taught by Manning et al. is actual disconnection of lines. Rather, Manning et al. teach attenuation of DTMF signals on lines via a switchable a.c. load. However, the purpose and effect of disconnecting a telephone unit from the network or attenuating a signal to the point that it cannot be recognized or picked up by the network is the same.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have selected a method of disconnecting the telephone unit from the network because either method effects the same result.

What is also not taught by Manning et al. is a data processing device being controlled or utilized via a telephone unit for telephony purposes.

However, Rosen et al. teaches communication with a computer using telephones, wherein a device allows DTMF tones from a telephone unit to be used to control telephony communication service or communication software resident on the computer, while allowing communication to and from a telephone network when need be. (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 5, Col. 1, line 26 – Col. 3, line 15, Col. 4, line 4 – Col. 12, line 48, Col. 16, line 1 – Col. 17, line 28)

Manning et al. and Rosen et al. both teach the use of a telephone for controlling a separate appliance, Manning et al. being limited to household appliances or the telephone unit itself. It would have been obvious to have extended the invention of Manning et al. to include controlling telephony services on a computer inasmuch as computers can be considered to be simply another separate household appliance, and as taught by Rosen et al., it is useful to be able to control computers via telephone units for ease of operation, for convenience, remote operation, etc. Albeit that the invention of Rosen et al. functions in a slightly different manner than the invention of Manning et al. with respect to how signals are inhibited and how communication is achieved between computer and telephone, i.e., Rosen et al. teaches the use of voice recognition/commands via the telephone unit whereas Manning et al. teaches the use of DTMF tones for control.

However, it is very well known in the art to convert voice into DTMF tones for specifically the purpose of using voice commands as taught by Bulfer. (Abstract, Fig. 1 and 2, Col. 1, line 13 – Col. 2, line 46, Col. 3, line 10 – Col. 5, line 24) Furthermore, it is very well known in the art that many systems already convert voice into DTMF signals as this was once the only way for voice recognition commands to be implemented and recognized by telephonic systems.

Also not taught explicitly by Manning et al. is codes differing between network sources and telephony units.

However, such would be at the very least obvious if not inherent in most any telecommunications system. Calls from the network will come in to check, for example,

voice mail or check messages on an answering machine. In this common scenario, the system MUST be able to differentiate between signals from the network and those from the telephone unit, and such is usually done by having different predetermined values for various DTMF signals, or else the system becomes confused or has interfering feature interactions. Furthermore, Manning et al. contemplates differentiating between various DTMF signals and predefined code designations, as seen in the sections of Manning et al. mentioned above.

Regarding claims 2 and 11, it is inherent or would be very obvious to have a unit or two separate units, as the multiplication of units performing the same function has no inventive function, for the purpose of separating DTMF from voice signals as claimed in the present invention. One simple example is when one would not want to send voice to the microprocessor 400 of Manning et al. when programming it if it is not required. Obviously, only the DTMF control signals are necessary. Furthermore, if one were to send voice and DMTF tones simultaneously, a system would either never be able to detect what signals are for control or which actually comprise, for example, a conversation or if it could, it would be counter-intuitive to not separate them as DTMF and voice signals many times have different functions.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/31/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to applicant's arguments regarding "disconnection" by the present invention and the "inhibition/attenuation" taught by Manning et al., see the above rejection. To base patentability on a design choice is not persuasive to examiner, especially in lieu of the fact that the rejection given was a 103 rejection.

As to applicant's arguments regarding the operation of the present invention as being operative to stop signals not meant to be dialing signals from being sent to the telephone network and on to a called party, such is the very invention taught by Manning et al. Manning et al. is an invention whereby control/programming/.etc. signaling is inhibited so that a central office or in the case of voice mail usage, credit card calling, etc. (Col. 2, line 51 – Col. 3, line 46, Col. 7, line 43 – Col. 8, line 55). In any of these scenarios or even in normal telephone usage, or call waiting, or three-way calling, control signals or DTMF tones generated by mistakenly pressing a button, not meant to be dialing signals are passed along to a desired program or terminal or control device or are ignored, without being recognized or sent to a switch and on to a called party.

The Rosen et al. reference was used merely to show other devices that could be controlled. Applicant's assertion that Rosen et al. teaches away from the claimed invention and operates differently is irrelevant in lieu of Manning et al.

Finally, the use of Bulfer was simply to make the relationship/bridge between Manning et al. and Rosen et al. closer, by showing that Rosen et al. did not teach away from Manning et al. simply because Rosen et al. used voice recognition commands for control as opposed to DTMF control signals.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hector A. Agdeppa whose telephone number is 703-305-1844. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon thru Fri 9:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar can be reached on 703-305-4731. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

H.A.A.
June 25, 2003


AHMAD MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600